Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

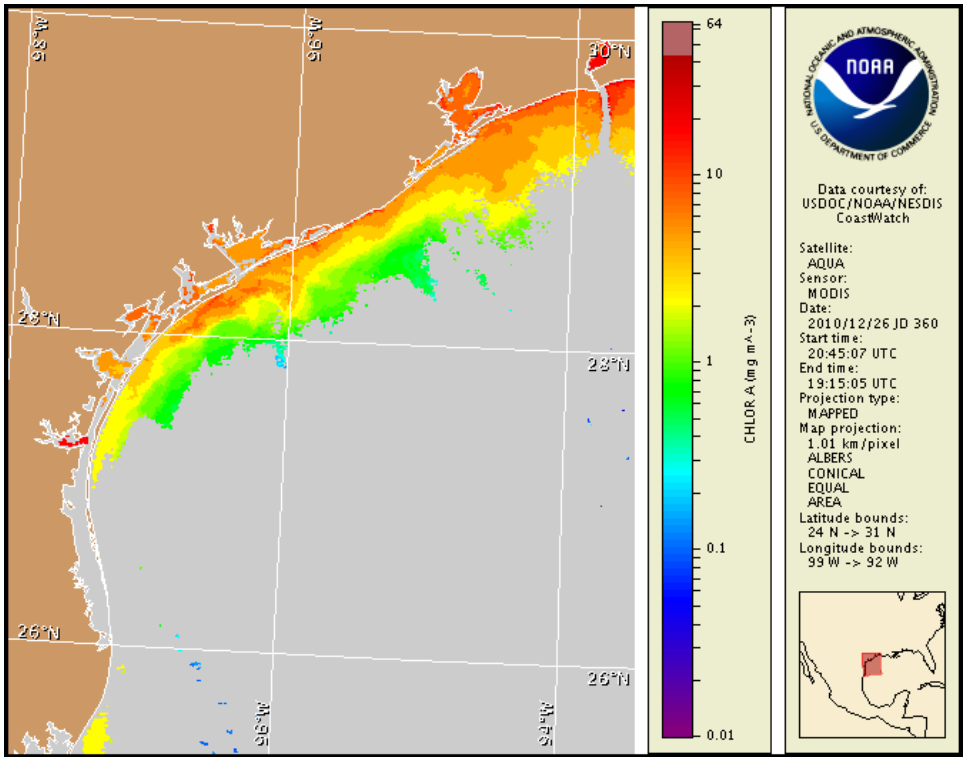
27 December 2010

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: December 20, 2010



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from December 17 to 22 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

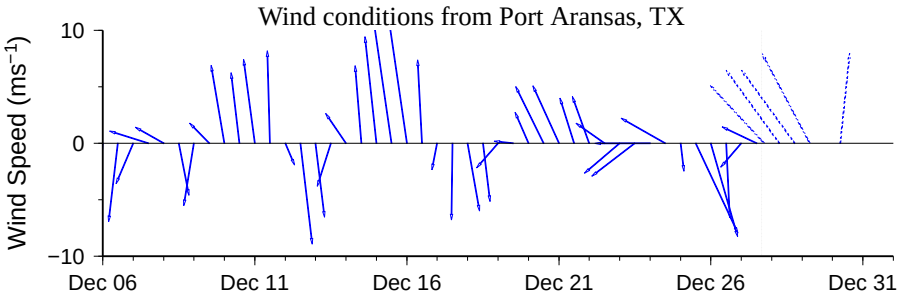
Conditions Report

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom at the coast in Texas. No impacts are expected alongshore Texas today through Sunday, January 2.

Analysis

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom along the coast of Texas. Imagery of the coastal region south of Baffin Bay is partially obscured by clouds limiting analysis. A broad band of elevated chlorophyll (2 to <10 μg/L) is visible in the imagery, stretching along- and offshore from Sabine Pass to the Baffin Bay region. Patches of high chlorophyll (> 10 μg/L) are also visible alongshore from Sabine Pass to Cavalle Pass. Elevated chlorophyll seems to be due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments as a result of strong winds over the past several days and is most likely not related to a harmful algal bloom. Forecast models indicate a negligible (< 10 km) transport south along the coast from Port Aransas from December 26-30.

Kavanaugh, Derner

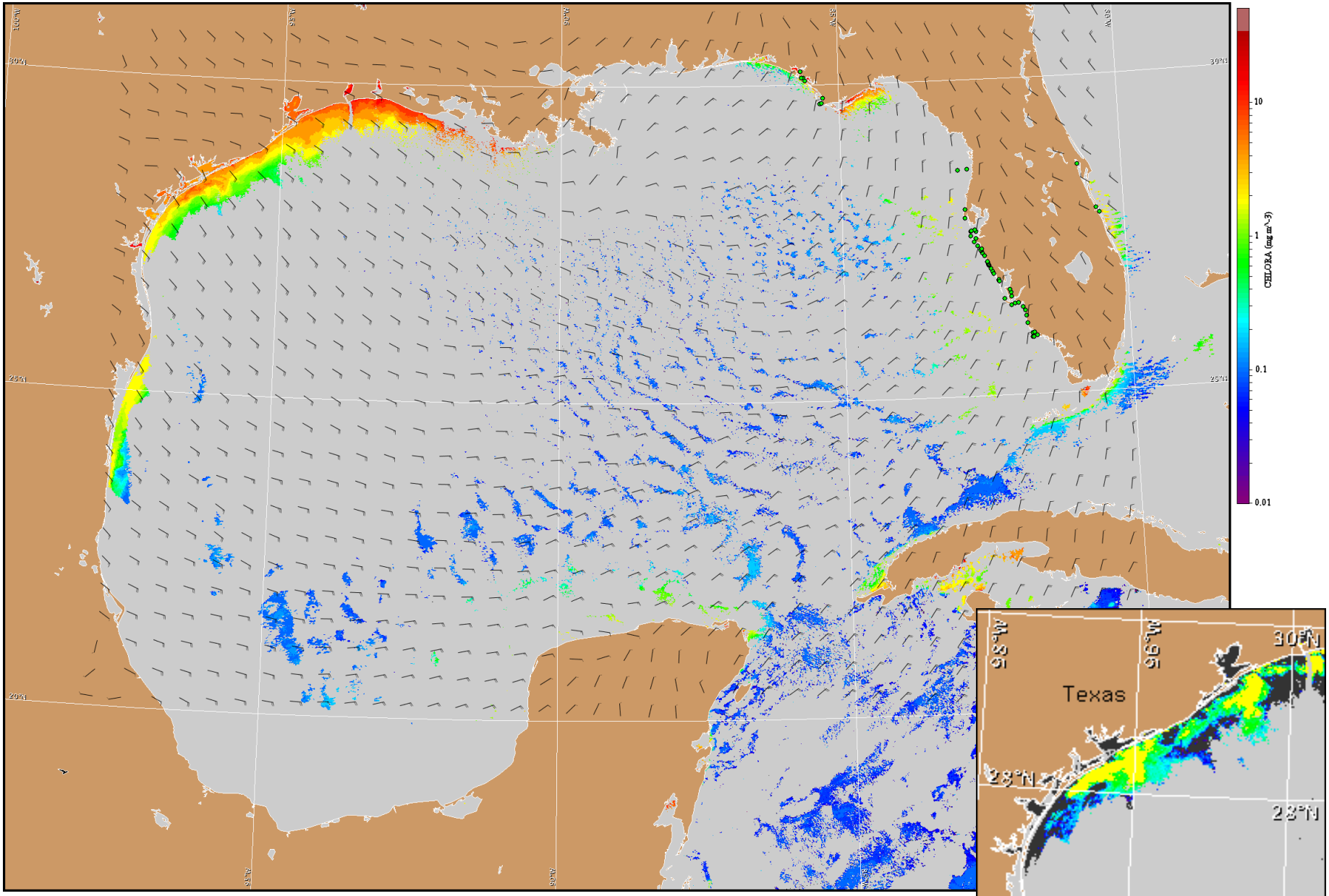


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Southeast winds (10-15 kn, 5-8 m/s) today increasing in speed (15-20 kn, 8-10 m/s) tonight through Tuesday. Southeast to south winds (15-25 kn, 8-13 m/s) Tuesday evening through Friday. Northeast winds (20-25 kn, 10-13 m/s) Friday afternoon.

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive: http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for December 28, 2010 06Z with Cell concentration sampling data from December 17 to 22 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:
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Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).